July 16, 2018

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Dear XXX [Department Chair],

I am writing you in your capacity as Department Chair to invite affiliate membership in the Federation of Associations in Behavioral and Brain Sciences (FABBS). FABBS is located in Washington, DC, and is conducting important work to support our sciences on Capitol Hill and with federal agencies. Affiliate membership is a modest investment of $395 per year. Here is what FABBS does--

**SCIENCE BUDGETS**

As we all well know, the behavioral sciences have faced challenges over the decades. FABBS has been fighting back against targeted cuts to our areas of science and responding to attacks on individual grants. For example, FABBS and our colleagues across the sciences, higher education, and health communities fought to raise the budget caps to provide more wiggle room in the budget for agencies like the National Institutes of Health (NIH), National Science Foundation (NSF), and Institute for Education Sciences (IES). Without this critical work, cuts in the budget would have been inevitable. We succeeded – a critical victory!

Unfortunately, the battle never ends, and we need your help to keep science funding robust. As you may know, the President’s budget proposal for Fiscal Year 2019 would cut NSF’s Social, Behavioral, and Economic (SBE) Sciences Directorate by 9.1% and that of two of its divisions by 11.2% (*Behavioral and Cognitive Sciences* and *Social and Economic Sciences*).

The President’s budget proposal is not necessarily the final word, however, so FABBS has continued its outreach on Capitol Hill to ensure that lawmakers see the benefit of funding the behavioral sciences. Recently, the House Appropriations Committee marked up a bill that provides a 5.3% increase to NSF, a 5% increase to the research line, and no targeted cuts to behavioral science. This is an important victory, but now we need to get the bill through the full House intact. In addition, the Senate Appropriations Committee recently approved a $301 million increase in NSF funding for a total of $8.1 billion. FABBS work on Capitol Hill is making a difference! The Senate Committee’s report gives us even more reasons to be optimistic too, as it included a statement that “NSF shall maintain its core research at levels not less than those provided in fiscal year 2017.”

Despite the good news from Capitol Hill, we are worried by rumors that the Administration may try to cut funding for the SBE Directorate in its allocations of funds in the FY 2018 budget, which was signed into law in the spring, but is not yet finalized. Although FABBS met with the White House’s Office of Management and Budget staff earlier in the year to talk about the importance of NSF-funded behavioral science research in addressing national priorities, our concerns remain.

Simply put, FABBS is working tirelessly to make the case for the behavioral and brain sciences. This type of complicated, strategic, and often behind-the-scenes work is critical in ensuring that our sciences receive adequate funding, and it is what our talented Executive Director, Paula Skedsvold, has been doing effectively in DC for over 20 years.

**CLINICAL TRIALS**

And then there is the NIH clinical trials issue: FABBS led the way in advocating for changes in NIH’s policies that seek to redefine basic science with humans as a clinical trial. We continue to work on this, most recently in a meeting with the NIH Deputy Director to share concerns and ideas from our basic science community. Recently, we received word from NIH that the agency has developed a plan for addressing the concerns we raised almost one year ago. Within the next few weeks, NIH will issue guide notices and a Request for Information that will truly begin to resolve the issue. We hope this will become a win-win for both our scientific community and NIH.

**STUDENT AWARDS**

In addition to adding your support to promote our sciences, FABBS initiated a new program this year for affiliate members that provides each affiliate the opportunity to nominate its best and brightest students for two annual awards (one undergraduate and one graduate) to acknowledge research of superior quality and broader societal impact. In mid-May, we announced the following 2018 award winners:

[Doctoral Dissertation Research Excellence Awards](http://fabbs.org/honoring-our-scientists/research-excellence-awards/doctoral-dissertation/)

* **Nick Jacobson**, The Pennsylvania State University, Department of Psychology and Psychiatry, *Differences in Neural Activation in Anxiety and Depressive Disorders: An fMRI Meta-Analysis*
* **Alaina Pearce, PhD**, Georgetown University, Department of Psychology, *Neurocognitive Deficits in Pediatric Obesity*
* **Joseph Vitriol, PhD**, University of Minnesota, Department of Psychology, *The (In)Egalitarian Self: On the Motivated Rejection of Alleged Implicit Racial Bias*

[Undergraduate Research Excellence Awards](http://fabbs.org/honoring-our-scientists/research-excellence-awards/undergraduate/)

* **Xi “Richard” Chen**, Cornell University College of Human Ecology, Department of Human Development, *Explaining Recollection Without Remembering*
* **Justin Palmer**, Arizona State University, Department of Psychology, *An Evaluation of the Cognitive Effects of a Short-Term and a Long-Term Ovarian Hormone Deprivation in a Transgenic Mouse Model of Alzheimer’s Disease: Addressing the Critical Window*

Nominations for the 2019 awards will be solicited in an announcement in the fall of 2018.

**BECOME AN AFFILIATE**

Your support is as important today as ever. Help us promote the behavioral and brain sciences by becoming an affiliate. For your information, we attach the most recent FABBS Newsletter (see fabbs.org to sign up) and our 2017 Accomplishments brochure. If you have questions about an affiliate membership, please feel free to reach out to one of us.

Sincerely,



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| Nora S. Newcombe  *President*  [newcombe@temple.edu](mailto:newcombe@temple.edu) | Roxane Cohen Silver  *President Elect*  [rsilver@uci.edu](mailto:rsilver@uci.edu) | Jeremy Wolfe  *Past President*  [jwolfe@partners.org](mailto:jwolfe@partners.org) |

cc: Paula Skedsvold, FABBS Executive Director